

**Meeting Announcement and Call for Presentations**

**2011 Fall Meeting  
October 7 and 8, 2011  
University of Michigan Dearborn**

**Deadline for Presentation Proposals: Saturday, September 17**

**Are you interested in physics, physics education, or science literacy? If so, you are invited** to the Fall 2011 meeting of the Michigan Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers! Join colleagues from across the state to exchange innovative ideas in the teaching and learning of physics.

***Featured speaker: Dr. Kevin Lee (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)***

We are honored to welcome Dr. Kevin Lee as our featured speaker. He is currently leading a group of artists and programmers who are developing astronomy education materials including online labs, in-class think-pair-share questions, and assessment tools such as ranking tasks. Kevin is a member of the NSF-Funded CATS (Community of Astronomy Teaching Scholars) team centered at the University of Arizona.



Kevin will deliver the keynote address on Saturday morning. He will also present a 3-hour workshop later that day providing a hands-on experience with ClassAction, a computer based resource for peer instruction. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops to this session. Copies of software and a flash plugin will be available at the meeting as well as on the MiAAPT web site prior to the meeting.

***Meeting location: University of Michigan Dearborn***

Maps and directions to UM-Dearborn can be found at:

[http://www.umd.umich.edu/maps\\_directions/](http://www.umd.umich.edu/maps_directions/). Stay tuned for the full program announcement for details about hotels, parking and lunch on Saturday.

## ***Presentation Information***

All who are planning to attend the meeting are also encouraged to contribute presentations on favorite physics demonstrations, classroom experiences, teaching experiments (*i.e.*, teaching a familiar topic with a “new twist”), and ongoing projects in teaching or scholarship. Presentations at the meeting may take on a variety of forms, including the following:

- **Oral Presentations** may be formal (*i.e.*, Powerpoint) or informal. Engaging presentations, including those that are interactive with the audience, are always highly encouraged. Oral presentations are limited to **15 minutes** each, including follow-up questions and discussion.
- **Workshops** for high school teachers college faculty form an integral part of every meeting. Workshops, usually 2 or 3 hours long, will likely be scheduled for the afternoon and/or evening of Friday (Oct. 7) as well as for Saturday afternoon (Oct. 8). Unless announced ahead of time by the presenter(s), workshop registration takes place on a “walk-in” basis.
- **Poster Presentations** are welcome especially if you wish to share teaching ideas or apparatus for which the time constraints might not work for an oral presentation.
- **My Favorite Demonstrations and “Physics Puzzlers”** are quick but unique physics demonstrations with which to share favorite challenge questions or to share unexpected or unusual outcomes from an experiment. These are limited to **5 minutes** each.

### ***If I want to contribute a presentation, how do I submit information about it?***

You may fill out the attached “**Presentation Proposal Form**” on the page 4 (you can complete it electronically in Microsoft Word) or compile the following information about your presentation:

1. **Type of presentation** (oral, workshop, poster, or My Favorite Demo/Physics Puzzler)  
*NOTE:* If a **workshop**, please indicate which times you could present (indicate **all times** that work): (a) Friday afternoon (6-8pm), (b) Saturday evening (1–3 pm), (c) Saturday afternoon (3–5 pm)
2. **Title** (10 words maximum...longer titles will be edited to 10 words or fewer)
3. **Name and contact information of (primary) presenter** (school or institution or other affiliation, address, phone number, and e-mail address)
4. **Brief description** (100 words maximum) of your presentation
5. **Description of any A/V equipment needed.** (Rooms for oral presentations and workshops will be equipped with computer projector and overhead projector.) It is the **presenter’s** responsibility, though, to bring a laptop and any special equipment.

Please submit your completed “Presentation Proposal Form” so that it arrives **by Saturday, September 17**. Please send it by e-mail (*highly preferred*) or “snail mail” to:

James Gell  
Plymouth High School  
8400 S Beck Rd  
Canton, MI 48175

E-mail: [james.gell@pccsmail.net](mailto:james.gell@pccsmail.net)  
Phone: 248 252-6017  
FAX (please contact James for details)

***For updates on the Fall 2011 meeting:*** Check out the MIAAPT website: [www.miaapt.org](http://www.miaapt.org).

***Fall 2011 MIAAPT Meeting:  
Keynote address and invited workshops***

**Dr Kevin Lee (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)**

**Keynote Address:** Saturday, Oct. 8, morning (exact time TBA)

***The Evolution of Peer Instruction***

A recent study by the CATS group has focused on looking for correlations between student learning gains and classroom interactivity. This research has shown that classroom interactivity is a necessary, but not sufficient condition for high learning gains. The manner in which the interactivity is implemented is a major factor -- what we do as instructors does matter!

This presentation will survey our evolving understanding of peer instruction – the most widely adopted technique for engaging students in the classroom. What does educational research (and common sense) tell us about how peer instruction should be implemented and where do questions remain? What are good questions and how do we make them better? Where is including technology advantageous and where is it a hindrance? I will close with an overview of ClassAction – a cutting-edge computer database of peer instruction materials – that holds promise for extending the peer instruction paradigm.

**Invited Workshop #1:** Saturday, Oct. 8, (exact time TBA).

***ClassAction: Dynamic Visual Peer Instruction in Astronomy***

This workshop will provide a hands-on experience with ClassAction – a computer-based collection of peer instruction questions and resources for providing feedback. There are two overarching design goals in ClassAction: flexibility (subsets of materials and can easily be selected and adapted to a suit an instructor's particular needs) and a strong emphasis on visuals (question prompts consist of animations, images, and structured diagrams). This workshop will train instructors on how to use ClassAction and show examples of 1) designing sequences of questions that build in complexity, 2) the use of follow-up questions to check student understanding, and 3) using simulations to provide feedback on questions.

All ClassAction materials are publicly available for live use or download at <http://astro.unl.edu>. We would like to thank the NSF for funding under Grant Nos. 0404988 and 0715517, a CCLI Phase III Grant for the Collaboration of Astronomy Teaching Scholars (CATS) Program.

***MIAAPT Mission Statement:*** The Michigan Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers is dedicated to promoting excellence in physics education in the state of Michigan and to supporting physics educators statewide. This organization shall endeavor to advance the knowledge of physics; to improve the teaching of physics; and to interest an increasing number of young people in making a career of physics.

## MIAAPT Presentation Proposal Form: Fall 2011 Meeting

1. Type of Presentation (*select one*):    **Oral**    **Workshop**    **Poster**    **Favorite Demo/Puzzler**

If a **workshop**, please indicate which time(s) you could present (*indicate all times you could make*):

(a) Friday Oct. 7., 6 - 8 pm    (b) Saturday Oct. 8, 1 - 3 pm    (c) Saturday Oct. 8, 3 - 5pm

2. Title of presentation, maximum **10 words**:

---

3. Name of (Primary) Presenter:

---

School/Institution/Affiliation:

---

Address:

---

E-mail address:

---

Phone number:

---

4. Brief description/summary of presentation (max. 100 words). In addition, you may include names of co-presenters with their affiliations; references/citations; etc.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

5. Equipment needs:

\*\* **IMPORTANT**: Presentation rooms will have computer projector systems and overhead projectors, but presenters should bring their own laptops.

---

---